USDA

# <u>hristmas</u>

## rees 20

ermits are available to cut Christmas trees on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest now through Dec. 24.

Cutting areas are located within national forest lands in the eastern portions of Pierce, King, Snohomish, Skagit and Whatcom counties. Maps and information about cutting areas are provided where permits are sold at ranger stations and the public service centers.

Permits are also sold at REI's Alderwood Mall store daily and the Outdoor Recreation Information Center located inside the downtown Seattle REI store. Permits cost \$10 each, one tree per permit, with a tree height limit of 12 feet. Trees taller than 12 feet require a tall tree permit for \$20. REI locations sell only the

\$10/12-feet and under Christmas tree permits. The permits are for 2015 season and are nonrefundable.



Finding the right Christmas tree is the easy part; getting the tree back home can be more difficult. Try dragging your tree behind you on a sled or with ropes.

Cash, credit cards and checks are accepted at Forest Service stations, the Outdoor Recreation Information Center in the Seattle REI and the Alderwood Mall REI stores. Glacier and Verlot Public Service Centers only accept cash and checks. Forest Service offices and REI stores are closed Thanksgiving Day. Forest Service offices may close early Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve; please call ahead for operating hours.

Plan to purchase a parking permit if the trip includes parking in a designated Sno-Park lot. When at a trailhead requiring a fee, the Northwest Forest Pass will need to be displayed on the vehicle dashboard. Get a tree early before snow falls as most trees are reached by narrow, unplowed mountain roads. High-clearance vehicles are often required for forest roads along with tire chains and a shovel. Check ranger stations for road and weather information or go to www.fs.usda.gov/goto/mbs/road-trails.

### Mt. Baker Ranger Station 810 State Route 20, Sedro-Woolley, WA 360-856-5700 Ext. 515 Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Nov. 28, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. Dec. 5, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. Dec. 12, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

### Skykomish Ranger Station

Stevens Pass Hwy., Skykomish, WA 360-677-2414 Mon.–Fri. 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Nov. 28, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Dec. 5, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Dec 12, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

### Seattle REI

**Outdoor Recreation** Information Center 222 Yale Ave. N., Seattle, WA 206-470-4060 Daily 10 a.m.- 6 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving Closed Nov. 27

### **Darrington Ranger Station** 1405 Emens Ave. N.,

Darrington, WA 360-436-1155 Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Nov. 28, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. Dec. 5, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. Dec. 12, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

### **Snoqualmie Ranger Station**

North Bend Office 902 SE North Bend Way North Bend, WA 425-888-1421 Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Nov. 28-29, 8 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. Dec. 5-6, 8 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. Dec. 12-13, 8 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

### **REI Alderwood Store**

3000 184th St. SW, Lynnwood, WA 425-640-6200 Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.- 9 p.m. Sun. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving Closed Nov. 27

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### **Snoqualmie Enumclaw Office**

450 Roosevelt Ave. E., Enumclaw, WA 360-825-6585 Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Nov. 28-29, 8 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. Dec. 5-6, 8 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. Dec. 12-13, 8 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

### **Verlot Public Service Center**

33515 Mountain Loop Highway Granite Falls, WA 360-691-7791 Nov. 27-29, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. Sat-Sun, 8 a.m.- 3 p.m.

### **Glacier Public Service** Center

Mt. Baker Highway 542, Glacier, WA 360-599-2714 Sat-Sun, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

### Christmas Trees 2015

# INSTRUCTIONS 1. District cutting guidelines minist be followed. 2. Permit must be attached to tree and visit of Land Management For Personal Use Only 4. Nonrefundable 2. Permit must be attached to tree and visit of Land Management and Management Pror Personal Use Only 4. Nonrefundable 2. Permit must be attached to tree and visit of Land Management and Manage

### **Rules**

Look for posted signs where cutting is prohibited. Maps are available online and where permits are purchased.

Tree cutting is not allowed within developed campgrounds, administrative sites, designated wilderness areas or on state or private owned lands within the national forest.

Tree cutting is not permitted within **150** feet of any stream, lakes, ponds or wetland areas.

When parked at a trailhead, place the tree tag on the driver's side of the dashboard.

When you cut your tree, punch out the **month, day and year** on the permit tag. Tags may not be re-used. Attach the tree tag where it is clearly visible on the tree before loading it onto your vehicle.

Each permit is for one Christmas tree. Families can be issued up to five permits.

Permits are valid for trees up to 12 feet in height. Topping a tree over 12 feet in height is subject to a minimum fine of \$75 (CFR 36 261.10(I)).

Cut trees 12 inches or less above the ground level. Remove snow from base of tree if it is not visible. Cut off limbs remaining on the stump.

Parking in a designated **Sno-Park** without a permit is subject to a \$100 fine. Permits can be purchased at Forest Service offices near Sno-Park areas. Visit the Washington State Parks and Recreation website for information about Sno-Park parking permits at http://www.parks.wa.gov/winter/permits.asp.

### **Safety First**

- Prepare ahead for changing weather and driving conditions.
- Tell someone where you are going and what time you expect to return home.
- Have a full tank of fuel. Carry a shovel, flashlight, tire chains, matches and blankets in your vehicle. Bring along food and warm drinks.
- Wear proper winter clothing and carry extra in case you get wet. Some areas may be open to hunting, so wear brightly colored clothing or hunter's orange.
- Most forest roads are not snow plowed or maintained during the winter. Watch
  out for ice and snow; some areas may require chains and a four- wheel drive
  vehicle.
- Turn on headlights for visibility and expect heavy traffic in popular tree cutting areas.
- Turn your vehicle around upon arrival; snow accumulation can inhibit turning a vehicle around later. Park vehicles on a road shoulder or turn-out areas and do not block the road.

The Forest Service will not snow plow the Hansen Creek Road (Forest Service road 5510) on the I-90 corridor and Forest Service roads 7010 and 75 up the Highway 410 corridor.

### **Tree Care**

Once you've returned home with your tree, leave it outside in a shady area in a bucket of water. The water will keep the tree fresh.

After you bring your tree inside, fill the tree stand with water every day.

